UNITED NATIONS

ST

Secretariat

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INFORMATION CIRCULAR

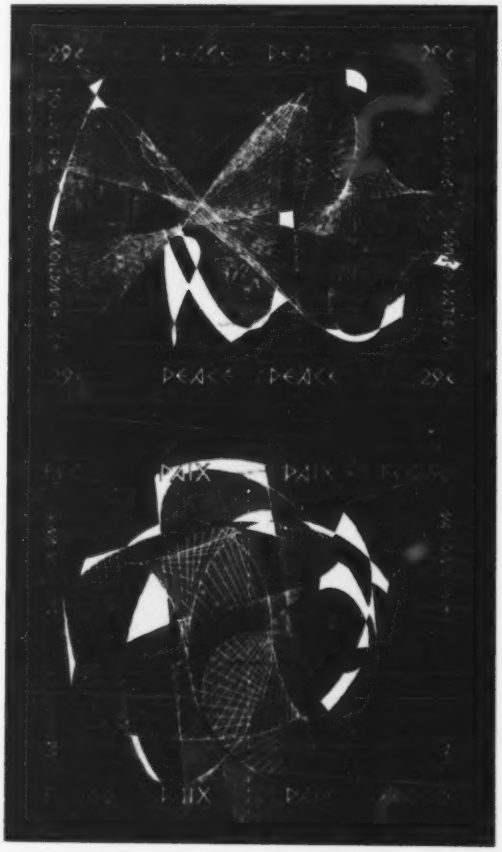
To: Members of delegations and staff

From: Director, Office of General Services

Subject: FIRST DAY OF ISSUE: "PEACE" STAMPS

1. In 1981, the General Assembly declared that the third Tuesday of September, the opening day of the regular session of the General Assembly each year, "shall be officially proclaimed and observed as International Day of Peace" (resolution 36/67).

2. To commemorate this event, on Tuesday, 21 September 1993, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of three different designs of se-tenant blocks of four stamps and a souvenir card on the theme of "Peace".



3. These stamps are the second set to be created for the United Nations by Hans Erni (Switzerland). In 1984, he accepted a commission from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to design his first stamps for UNPA on the theme "A Future for Refugees".

4. The stamps measure 33 mm x 28 mm, perforation to perforation. Slit perforations will be used on the vertical sheets of 40 stamps. The stamps were printed in a combination process of one colour intaglio (white) and four colours in offset on pre-gummed, coated stamp paper of approximately 103 g/m^2 by the Swiss PTT.

Denominations	Quantities
29 cents	2 800 000
F.s. 0,60	2 400 000
S 5.50	2 800 000

(United States equivalents - F.s. 0,60: 45 cents and S 5.50: 52 cents - subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

5. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachet ONLY.

6. The "Peace" stamps will be issued in sheets of 40 stamps. A se-tenant design has been used so that the se-tenant block of four appears as one large illustration; hence each sheet will consist of 10 se-tenant blocks of four stamps. The se-tenant block of four will comprise one selling unit.

7. The forty-fourth in a series of souvenir cards will also be released on 21 September 1993 to coincide with the "Peace" issue. The card, designed by Robert Stein, a United Nations staff member, depicts the three new se-tenant blocks of stamps and carries a statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

8. A quantity of 90,000 cards was printed in offset by the Swiss PTT. They will be available for a period of three months, while supplies last.

9. Members of delegations and the staff may obtain the new stamps and first-day cancellations on Tuesday, 21 September, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.;

(b) The counter at the north end of the Secretariat lobby from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

10. Staff members are encouraged to use United Nations stamps on their personal mail. By doing so, these miniature messengers of peace can educate unseen thousands of people to the activities and goals of the United Nations.